

ABSTRACT

Stable code rate control is performed in converting the picture information. The MPEG2 interlaced scanned compressed picture information (bitstream) is to be converted into the progressive scanned MPG4 compressed picture information (bitstream). An activity synthesis unit 15 synthesizes, from the activity-based activity information in the MPEG2 compressed picture information (bitstream), the macroblock-based activity information in the MPEG4 compressed picture information (bitstream). An MPEG4 picture information encoding unit (I/P-VOP) 11 uses the so-synthesized activity information as the parameter for adaptive quantization at the time of encoding the MPEG4 picture information.